

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 11, 2003 has been reviewed. Claims 21 and 25 have been amended. Claims 7-16 and 21-26 are pending, and are respectfully submitted for reconsideration by the Examiner.

Claims 21-26 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,649,687 to Rosas et al. ("Rosas") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,362,185 to Kadner. Claims 7-10 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Rosas in view of Kadner, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,002,318 to Koch. Claims 21 and 25 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Claims 21 and 25 each recite a purge solenoid valve assembly including a bobbin having first and second flanges, a wire wound around the bobbin between the first and second flanges, a terminal electrically connected to the wire, and an overmolded cap contiguously engaging the first and second flanges and generally encapsulating the bobbin and the wire, the overmolded cap including a connector body formation partially encapsulating the at least one terminal. Support for these features is provided at, for example, page 3, ll. 5-18, and Figs. 2 and 5, of Applicant's specification as originally filed. Thus Applicant's invention provides an overmolded part that encapsulates the solenoid coil, eliminating several components such as a strap and spring locator, and maintaining dimensional stability and alignment without depending on a metal shell, for example.

In contrast, as described at col. 2, line 66 - col. 3, line 14, and shown in Fig. 1 of Rosas, solenoid assembly 14 includes a housing 30 having a flexible annular wall 32. Coil 36 and spool 38 are disposed in a metal canister 42 that engages the interior side wall of solenoid housing 30 above flexible annular wall 32. Adjacent to a lower portion of metal canister 42, flexible annular wall 32 interlocks with a flexible annular wall 34 of valve body 12. Flexible annular wall 34 is intermediate between metal canister 42 and flexible annular wall 32. Applicant respectfully submits that solenoid assembly 14 does not show the overmolded part of Applicant's invention at least because a lower portion of coil 36 and spool 38 is not encapsulated by housing 30.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither Kadner nor Koch overcomes the above-described deficiencies of Rosas. Koch shows a pressure control valve for an incompressible

media in an automatic transmission. As described at col. 3, ll. 35-43, and illustrated in FIG. 1 of Koch, coil 1 and coil carrier 2 are inserted into an iron jacket having stamped-out magnet sheets 4, 5 and 6. The coil, coil carrier and iron jacket are inserted into a pot-shaped housing 9 of aluminum. Kadner is directed to a non-return valve for high speed cycle operation (Abstract), and does not show anywhere an overmolded coil, or even a coil.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21 and 25 are patentable. Claims 7-16 and 22-24 ultimately depend from claim 21, and claim 26 depends from claim 25. The dependent claims recite the same combination of allowable features recited in the respective independent claims, as well as additional features that further distinguish over the prior art. At least for the above-described reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), of claims 7-16 and 21-26, be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims (*i.e.* claim 7-16 and 21-26) are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing all pending claims in condition for allowance. Applicant submits that the claim amendments do not raise new issues or necessitate additional search of the art by the Examiner.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite the prosecution.


If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

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By:



Peter J. Sistare
Registration No. 48,183

CUSTOMER NO. 009629
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
202-739-3000